

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/737,418

Examiner

Antonio A. Caschera

Applicant(s)

MOLNAR ET AL.

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to supplemental amendment filed, 12/19/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In reference to claim 1, the prior art of record (Baldwin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,847,370 B2), Saito et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0212619 A1), Willis et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0107578 A1), Robotham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,704,024 B2) and Hinton et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0115267 A1)) does not explicitly disclose outputting a token when a position conflict is detected within a tile in combination with delaying processing of a fragment that corresponds to the position conflict when fragment shading, in further combination with the other limitations of claim 1.

In reference to claims 2-9, claims 2-9 are also indicated as allowable because they claim dependency upon allowable claim 1.

In reference to claim 11, the prior art of record (Baldwin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,847,370 B2), Saito et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0212619 A1), Willis et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0107578 A1), Robotham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,704,024 B2) and Hinton et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0115267 A1)) does not explicitly disclose determining whether or not a position conflict exists during fragment shading by outputting a stall signal indicating whether or not new data will be accepted, in combination with the further limitations of claim 11.

In reference to claims 12-20, claims 12-20 are also indicated as allowable because they claim dependency upon allowable claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

2. Note, previously objected to and now cancelled claim 10 limitations were incorporated into independent claim 1, making claims 1-9 allowable and therefore placing the entire application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Antonio Caschera whose telephone number is (571) 272-7781. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached at (571) 272-7691.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

Art Unit: 2676

571-273-8300 (Central Fax)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

aac

acc

2/17/06



**RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**